

# BRADDOCK DISTRICT COUNCIL *NEWS*

**March 2004**  
**7:30 PM**

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## **Braddock District Council Meeting Schedule 2003–2004**

March 9, 2004	Agenda
7:30	Welcome and remarks by Chair
7:35	Comments by Supervisor Bulova
7:45	Fairfax County Office of Management and Budget presentation on the FY2005 Proposed Budget
8:15	Business Meeting
9:00	Adjourn

## **Dates of Meetings**

March 9, 2004  
April 13, 2004  
May 11, 2004  
June 8, 2004 Picnic

## **Location of Meetings**

Braddock District  
Meeting Hall  
9002 Burke Lake Road  
Burke, VA 22015

## **From the Chair:**

The February meeting was highlighted by a very informative presentation by Grace Starbird of the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging. She presented a compelling picture of the wealth of services available to senior citizens, a rapidly growing demographic segment in our county.

The March meeting will feature a presentation on the proposed Fairfax County budget. This has always been an eagerly awaited event, so get your tickets early! In April, we will have the opportunity to hear our elected state government representatives tell us their impressions of the 2004 General Assembly session. In May, we will wrap up the year with a presentation by the Potomac River Greenways Coalition, a group that actively promotes watershed health in our area. The Braddock District is home to two of the largest watersheds in the County, namely, the Accotink Creek and Pohick Creek systems. Chances are your neighborhood has a tributary of one of these streams in it. Do you know which one? Do you know the threats to the water quality of the watershed, the Potomac and the Chesapeake Bay? Are you interested in learning about the Master Watershed Stewardship Program? If so, don't miss the May meeting.

At each meeting, we learn anew that Braddock is a busy place. The BDC exists to help get “the word out” to you and your associations. Hopefully, we are doing a good job at that via this newsletter and our website. We also learn that Braddock is blessed with a solid core of very active and involved citizens, businesses and other organizations. To recognize the contributors to the quality and vibrancy of our district, Supervisor Bulova last year initiated the “Best of Braddock” awards. At the February meeting, she provided attendees with the criteria for the various categories, along with the nomination form. The “World-famous BOB awards” are a logical outgrowth of the BDC-

sponsored Citizen of the Year award, which is now in its 13th year. This is my chance to plug the COY program. The form and criteria are provided elsewhere in this newsletter. Please take time to consider a deserving citizen for this award. Nominations should be turned in to me or to Sharon's office NLT 31 March. We will convene a panel to review the nominations and make a decision. The award will be presented along with the BOBs at the June meeting and picnic.

In closing, two administrative items: 1) please provide our Secretary, Jeff Nolan, with updated association information (officers, phone numbers, e-mail, mailing address, etc.)

2) please pay the 2004 dues (covering from last September to this June). Treasurer Ivan Dietrich will be glad to take your money. The application form was in last month's newsletter. If you need another, please contact Ivan or else Ronnie in Sharon's office

See you at the March meeting.

Bob Cosgriff, Chairman

## SUPERVISOR BULOVA'S CORNER

Budget, gangs, libraries, new development and road improvements on Zion Drive, design of a parking garage at the Burke Centre VRE Station... Our Braddock District plate is pretty full during the months ahead.

Our March BDC meeting has traditionally served as our official Braddock District Community briefing on the County Executive's Recommended Budget. Please help us to get the word out to your community that anyone with an interest in hearing firsthand about the Fiscal Year 2005 Advertised Budget is welcome to attend the BDC meeting at **7:30 PM, on March 9<sup>th</sup>**. The budget presentation will take place in Braddock Hall, adjacent to the Kings Park Library on Burke Lake Road in Burke.

County Executive Tony Griffin is proposing a **\$2.7 billion budget**, based on our current tax rate of \$1.16 per \$100 of assessed value, an increase of 4.47% over the current year budget. Under the proposed budget, the School Transfer is an increase of 6.57% - or \$81.5 million - bringing the total County portion of the School budget to \$1.3 billion.

Our Transfer to the Schools represents 53% of total County General Fund Disbursements.

FY 05 Direct Expenditures (non school spending) totals \$1 billion, an increase of \$24 million (or 2.5%) over our current FY 04 budget.

Some features of this budget include:

? A new athletic services application fee of \$3.00 per hour to partially offset cost of scheduling and coordinating community use of athletic facilities.

? Positions and equipment to support a new Fairfax Center Fire Station, which will open in Spring 2005 - \$1.7 million.

? Funding to support the first year of a multi-year plan to address staffing issues at the Public Safety Communications Center - \$4.3 million.

? An increase in the maximum level of assets allowed for Real Estate tax relief eligibility for senior citizens from the current \$190,000 asset level to the State maximum of \$240,000.

More information about the Advertised Budget can be found on the County's Web site at: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb> or contact my office at 703-425- 9300 for a copy of the *Citizen's Guide to the Fiscal Year 2005 Budget*. Public Hearings are scheduled for March 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. The County Executive's Budget is scheduled to be "marked up" and adopted by the Board of Supervisors on April 19<sup>th</sup>. To testify, call the Clerk to the Board's Office at 703-324-3151 or by e-mailing: [clerktothebos@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:clerktothebos@fairfaxcounty.gov).

Our Braddock **District Community Dialog on Gangs & Revitalization** is underway. Our first meeting on February 11<sup>th</sup> defined the problem and was attended by about 200 people. **Our next meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup>** will deal with "What's Being Done About Gangs?". The Dialog will end on June 9<sup>th</sup>. My **Spring Town Meeting on June 23<sup>rd</sup>** will feature the Community Dialog process and final recommendations. You can follow the progress of our Community Dialog via meeting summaries posted on our Web page by going to the Board of Supervisors Web site at: [www.co.fairfax.va.us/government/board](http://www.co.fairfax.va.us/government/board) and clicking on Braddock District.

On February 24<sup>th</sup>, residents of the Burke Centre area commented on the layout and artist renderings for a new **Burke Centre Library** to be built on a 7.35 acre site at the intersection of Burke Centre Parkway and Freds Oak Road. With the passage of

a Bond Referendum for Libraries this November, construction on the 17,000 square foot library could begin in 2006 and be completed by fall of 2007.

**The Burke Centre VRE Station Parking Facility Task Force** concluded its fine work on February 18<sup>th</sup>. The unanimously adopted recommendations for Design, Operation, and Pedestrian Enhancement considerations were submitted to my colleagues on the Board of Supervisors on Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, with instructions that the work of the Task Force be used as guidance to County staff and the architect chosen to begin design on the parking facility. The Task Force will convene at least one more time this fall to see and discuss progress on the architect's design. Construction of the parking facility could begin by spring of 2006, with completion scheduled for fall of 2007. Meeting summaries from Task Force meetings can be viewed on our Braddock Web page (address above).

On **Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>**, my office will be hosting a **"Pardon Our Dust" community meeting** to share information about the impending development of 58 new homes on the north and south side of Zion Drive. The developer of the homes, Stanley Martin, has agreed to construct major improvements to Zion Dr., as well as some significant storm drainage improvements. The meeting will deal chiefly with the **Zion Drive road improvements**. I hope you will be able to join me for this briefing, which will be held at Bonnie Brae Elementary School, beginning at 7:30 PM.

Lastly, see inside this issue for a nomination form for this year's **BOB awards**. **BOB** (Best of Braddock) winners will be acknowledged at our June 8<sup>th</sup> Braddock District Council picnic. This is your chance to thank individuals and organizations that have gone out of their way to make Braddock the wonderful place it is to live and play and raise our families. **The deadline for BOB nominations in May 28<sup>th</sup>**.

Sincerely,



Sharon Bulova

## SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

As I write this month's column, the sun is shining, and the temperature is in the 50s. Let's hope spring in on the way!

This spring brings many changes to Fairfax County Public Schools. As I am sure you are all aware, Dr. Daniel Domenech will be leaving as Superintendent effective March 5<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Brad Draeger, formerly the Chief Academic Officer, has been named as interim Superintendent. I have worked with Dr. Draeger for over four years now, and I know that he will do a wonderful job as our interim Superintendent. He has been a teacher, assistant principal, principal, Assistant Superintendent for Human Relations and Chief Academic Officer here in Fairfax County, so he brings a wealth of knowledge about the school system to his temporary position.

And Dr. Laura Thomas, former principal at Lake Braddock Secondary School, has agreed to come out of retirement to temporarily fill in as Chief Academic Officer

As our children continue to be educated in our schools, the School Board has begun the process of hiring a new Superintendent. It is our hope to have a Superintendent hired by the middle of this summer.

We have hired a national search firm to assist us in our efforts. We are also set up a web-based survey to let you give us your opinions on the qualifications a new superintendent should possess. You can access the survey at the Fairfax County Public Schools web site.

It has often been said that the most important job of a School Board is the hiring of a Superintendent. We are all mindful of the importance of this task, and will work hard to see that we hire the best possible candidate. I would welcome any comments or suggestions you may have. You can e-mail them to me at [Tessie.Wilson@fcps.edu](mailto:Tessie.Wilson@fcps.edu), or leave me a voice mail message at 703-246-4781.

There is one other item I would like to mention which will be of particular interest to us here in Braddock District. On Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m., we will be re-naming the Media Center at Chapel Square in honor of Dr. Nancy Sprague. Dr. Sprague, the Chief Academic Officer, died in her sleep several months ago and is sorely missed by all of us. As a leader in the implementation of technology in our schools, it is indeed fitting that

the headquarters for our IT department be named in her honor. The ceremony is open to the public.

Tessie Wilson  
Braddock District School Board

## **BRADDOCK DISTRICT COUNCIL MINUTES**

### **SUMMARY of January 13, 2004 Meeting**

**The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Cosgriff at 7:37 P.M.**

Sharon Bulova (SB): The Parking Garage Task Force for the Burke Centre Virginia Railway Express (VRE) station is wrapping up on 18 February 2004.

SB: A developer is building residences on both sides of Zion Drive. The developer made a proffer to incorporate safety features. We will hold a "Pardon our Dust" meeting in early to late spring.

SB: I met earlier today with county staff and architects for new county library at FFC Parkway and Fred's Oak Road. The county bought the property from a small, horse farm owner who left the area. Within the next 3-4 weeks I will be holding a community meeting on the design of this Burke library.

SB: Usually we have a major community dialog or initiative each year. This year we are creating a task force to focus on gang activity in the Annandale section of the Braddock District. The first meeting of the task force will be held on February 11, and will be an orientation session, focused on defining the problem. Meetings will be held at Braddock Elementary School (Heritage Drive) on the second Wednesday of each month, from 5-7 P.M. After we define the problem, we will meet on March 10 to discuss what is being done. On April 14 we will discuss what is being done in the courts. We hope to have community engagement, as well as participation from U.S. Attorney Paul McNulty and Mr. Paul Kieve (from the U.S. Department of Justice – DoJ). We cannot expect that overnight they will fund everything and facilitate it. However, we intend to identify the resources available to the parents of a gang involved child. We seek to define what we can do as a community. The last working meeting will be on May 12. The agenda will include revitalization, including the park. We will wrap up

on June 9. Colin Campbell will be heading the gang task force as it was his idea and he is the former community president there. Carl Peed, former FFC Sheriff (now DoJ) may participate between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> meetings.

Art Wells (AW): We had a good turnout at the early December 2003 meeting at Little Run Elementary School. The meeting was co-hosted by Tessie Wilson, our School Board representative. The Fairfax County (FFC) Police Gang Unit briefed the participants. Santa Claus even drove by on a fire truck. The meeting was well attended.

Question: Are the task force meetings open to anyone? How will the word be publicized?

SB: The meetings are open to all. It is not mandatory that everyone attend every meeting. We will send the invites to community associations and former task force participants.

Colin Campbell (CC): Heritage Mall went from a nice community to unsafe after dark in 3-4 years. The property and violent crime rates have spiked. We just moved to Canterbury Woods. They want to know the warning signs.

AW: What effects are there on Annandale H.S.?

CC: Although nothing took place on campus, there was a civil disturbance a year ago in the parking lot of the Presbyterian Church on Newcastle Drive. A stabbing also took place at Heritage Mall.

SB: PTAs, Parks, and Schools will be invited. Hopefully we will get local press coverage.

Question: Most of the time that I ride the VRE, I find that people who get on after Burke Centre don't get a seat. Platforms are already too small for existing cars. Is that part of the discussion?

SB: Adding capacity to cars is a priority. We will soon be returning the new cars we borrowed from Seattle. We will be replacing them with gallery cars from Chicago. This will increase capacity by 900 seats. Burke Centre is not only place planning parking lot expansions. EZ Bus is first of its kind in U.S. The bus seats 15 people. You sign up for it – you subscribe. FFC staff mapped out the license plates for people parking at Burke Centre and designed the EZ Bus route to capture as many riders as possible. It's free. If you ride so many times, you get a discount on your VRE ticket. The EZ Bus is run by FFC through Fairfax Connector, and funded this year by Governor's Pilot program. We will apply again next year. Hopefully this will work well and be employed at other stations.

Questions: How many spaces will be added at the Burke VRE station?

SB: The currently proposed garage will accommodate 1450 cars.

CC: VRE ridership is growing at 18% per year. It is the second fastest growing commuter rail line in the country.

SB: Years ago we were worried it would not succeed. Our issue is now how to keep up with the growth and success.

Bob Cosgrove (BC): Transportation is topic A in the Braddock District, and probably throughout the district. Our Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) provides snow removal and roads for us. Here tonight are Dr. Bob Driscoll, Gary Much (area superintendent, camp 30), and Mr. Tom Barnes, Assistant Operations Manager for the area including Springfield and Braddock district.

Bob Driscoll (BD): This is a big county and there are a lot of things we don't see. If there is something wrong, having a good relationship with the local organizations is important. We work for Tom Farley, Northern Virginia (NoVA) District Administrator (encompassing 3 counties). We represent the maintenance portion. We have 60 years experience among myself and my 2 colleagues here.

BD: We brought a handout about the snow removal process. The handout is in the Braddock Hall literature rack. State funds availability this year has affected us, not only for snow removal but also for paving and resurfacing.

Tom Barnes (TB): VDOT is feeling the funding strain this year. We must do things smarter and more efficiently. We are going forward with paving, pothole patching, mowing, guard rail contracts, snow removal, and keeping our fingers crossed. I have hands on experience, I'm not an engineer. If it was up to VDOT, we wouldn't put in speed bumps – we address needs brought to us by the county. I know Penny Gross, and I know Tom Davis. The Big Picture is: drainage, pavement, vegetation, and dead animals. Our smallest district is 680 lane miles; Gallows Road carries as much traffic as the beltway. The typical district is not more than 500 lane miles. We have 9 districts in the county that are larger than 500 lane miles. The largest district is 1300 lane miles and continues to grow. We have submitted our paving schedule. Some of our county's unique challenges include: manholes, traffic, and communication (no parking). These problems are not present with paving in other counties – and result in added cost. In the past we

have been able to pave three more roads than now, for the same cost.

Question: What did you say about snow removal?

TB: There will be as many trucks on main line roads as previously, and some trucks will be in subdivisions. This year we will address main roads and then move into subdivisions. The VDOT Commissioner put a cap on spending.

AW: Are we secondary citizens who live on secondary roads? It was unfair that the VDOT plan was not announced until winter was upon us.

BD: The cash problem not on us until after Hurricane Isabel, etc. Last year we spent \$33M for NoVA. This year we have \$22M. If there are more than 8-10 inches of snow, we will be pressed to keep up with it and may have to bring in front-loaders. We will be using GPS locating on our trucks this year. We will also be using a computerized call system to respond to customer complaints.

TB: The last storm we had in December is a good example. Last year we would have been fully mobilized. This year we put out 1/3 of the trucks compared to last year.

BD: The construction budget has had to bail out the maintenance budget. I took an 8-10% cut in my budget. Some of these costs are driven by accidents – people don't drive appropriately.

TB: Last year was a double whammy; we had much more snow and a hurricane.

Question: When a resident or an association calls in a complaint, when will it reach the trucks?

BD: This year all the call centers have scripts kept up to date hourly. When a citizen call comes in, it is added to the street tally. When any one street has 2 or more calls it is yellow, 6 or more calls and it is red. We also have another color system (available only on the internal VDOT network – VDOTnet) that shows when we assign a "snow map" to a vehicle. The "snow map" changes color so that we can see that an area has been assigned to an operator.

Question: I am stunned to hear you have the same complaint system as Cox Cable – someone must call to get a problem fixed.

SB: It would be a good idea to televise which neighborhoods are being plowed.

BD: E.g., for the 2003 President's Day blizzard, I had to distribute over 1000 faxes. Now they pop up on the screen. The maximum personnel per maintenance area is 13 (including supervisor), and they split into two 12 hour shifts. Every contractor

with 4 or more trucks provides a supervisor, who reports when a subdivision is cleared. We have to take the word of the monitors or contract supervisors. We don't know if a plow missed a street or if cars were parked on a cul-de-sac and the plow couldn't go safely there. We have 6900 lane miles in FFC.

CC: Is a resident of the Braddock District better off calling the Braddock District or VDOT direct?

BD: Under the new system, call VDOT direct. SB always is welcome to call me or Renee Hamilton. We deal separately with these command center calls.

SB: During the 2003 blizzard the two individuals at your command center displayed a lot of patience; they were the best. They took email, phone calls, faxes, and whatever worked at the time from Braddock Hall.

☒ BD: Right now the "snow map" application is only available to VDOTnet users. It makes sense to extend that access so that someone like the Braddock District Supervisor could be able to see it now.

Suzanne Hartzel (SH): Do you train contractors on how to plow? During the 2003 blizzard, the 1<sup>st</sup> man through my neighborhood piled all the snow in my driveway!

TB: In past we advertised a set price for snow removal. Now we solicit bids. We compete for sanders (they provide more work – they are needed before and after the storm). We need contractors in September. We put our equipment on their trucks at no cost to them. One statewide problem is whether we really need an incentive to get contractor trucks on board in September. They are hauling dirt and asphalt through November, so they tend to be lackadaisical about putting snow removal equipment on in September.

BD: We also provide driver directions in Spanish. Contractors are supposed to train their drivers. They have to demonstrate contract performance. We don't monitor every driver.

TB: Things improve once we get through the gamut of new guys – hopefully by 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> snow.

Jeff Nolan (JN): What effect, if any, will the budget cuts have on keeping Braddock Road clear? For some reason it is designated a secondary, vice primary, road.

GM: Braddock Road will continue to receive chemical treatment and plowing just like the Beltway.

SB: The secondary road designation was done many years ago to expedite funding for road improvement.

TB: Maintenance is funded by centerline mile.

BD: We haven't activated the subdivision fleet yet. So far we have received less than 3 inches of snow.

TB: 60% of our workers come from > 40 miles away from FFC.

GM: We have a very limited number of contractors with their own equipment.

Question: The I-95 accident today in Baltimore required traffic rerouting. If it happened here, is there an incident management book with alternate routes?

TB: Yes. It shows detour routes, where to put signs, and which maintenance district to call. Barriers in the median can also be removed.

BC: Who are you using as experts for training your drivers?

TB: A good superintendent manages this.

BD: We are committed to not put out a driver who doesn't understand his directions.

TB: A value engineering study was done on snow removal in NoVA. Tysons' Corner contractors didn't want to work outside parking lots (as this is much easier work). In addressing this contractor shortage, we had very little support from neighborhood watch and community organizations.

BD: We are on the cutting edge of de-icing techniques. We give training in the amount of salt to put down. Our position this year is that we have contracted sufficient trucks, but when cash flow eases, your service level probably won't fully return.

☒ BD: If anyone wants to see these computer systems at the district HQ, you are welcome to call to visit.

Woman: What about people who experience medical problems (e.g., people on dialysis) during a snow storm?

BD: If it's a 911 emergency, call 911. They will call us.

AW: Do you perform a simulation to determine service? I am troubled by decreased service.

BD: The standards in the back of the brochure we handed out tonight are more congruent with state standards, which are less than we did last year.

SH: The level of service has improved dramatically from even 5 years ago.

BD: Years ago there used to be a "penguin" rating system. Then we were not in subdivisions until 18 hours after the snow stopped falling.

GM: The also used to be a road report with snow tires and chains recommended or required.

SB: Every 4 years we seem to get hit with a big snow. The worst was 4-5 years ago with consecutive snows upon each other. There probably needs to be something in between the chart and the high level of service from last year. My fear is that if you wait up to 3 days after 8 inches of snow, you may get another snow on top of that, as has occurred in the past.

BD: We are not going to wait. We will mobilize every truck if > 8 inches of snow is forecast. If 4-8 inches of snow are forecast over a weekend, I don't have to drive that hard to get there. This chart is the minimum level of service (worst case).

Woman: You do a great job. I lived 30 years in northern New York (NY) and North Dakota (ND). It is much more congested here, and cars don't get off roads during a storm.

GM: If you don't want your driveway plowed in, especially on a cul-de-sac, get your cars off the street.

TB: We don't mind complaints. My people get good pay, and should earn it. Often it takes longer to post signs on a road for pothole repair than it takes to perform the repair itself. We don't have asphalt available in winter, we must use a cold patch that results in pothole returning sooner.

CC: What is the status of repaving on Route 236?

TB: We will be paving Route 236 from Olley Lane eastward to the City of Alexandria. Then we will pave westward from Evergreen Drive to I-495.

Then we will pave from I-495 to Prosperity Avenue. Mr. Betts diverted funds to accomplish the Route 236 paving. All pavement is rated good, poor, or bad.

☒ SB: Would you please check on the status of spot improvements along Route 236 and Guinea Road?

TB: We have had tussles with the Fairfax County Water Authority (FCWA). They are required to repair and patch whatever gets torn up. They prefer to come in and do their work, and then have VDOT pay to pave the road.

TB: We should get 7-9 years of use after paving, but it never fails that a water line fails.

SB: There are spot improvements to widen the turn lanes at Route 236 and Guinea Road, as well as at Route 236 and Olley Lane.

TB: The Van Dorn (Area 5) crew has a difficult job keeping up with potholes. I could keep the crew out at least 2 days a week just fixing potholes.

SH: Perhaps it is time we had alternate side of the street parking to make snow removal easier.

BC: We can help ourselves a lot. Park your car off the street, if possible. Ask neighbor if you can park in their driveway when it snows, if you have extra vehicles that won't fit in your driveway.

☒ BD: I invite your neighborhood association to a face-to-face meeting with the Superintendent.

TB: For those interested, I have laid out the paving map for Braddock District for this coming year.

BC: Thank you for coming and providing us with this good information.

**The minutes of the last meeting were then approved by acclamation.**

☒ BD: Due to the limited number of copies available of the meeting minutes, in the future we will distribute (via email) the minutes of our last meeting for your review.

☒ BD: Please pass our newsletter to the current presidents of your civic association, and let us know your current officers and their contact information.

☒ BD: I am still soliciting survey information (6 responses have been received since September 2003). The survey has been in our newsletter. Please take the time to let us know how we can make this a better vehicle for you to help your community.

Ivan Dietrich (ID): As Treasurer, I report \$1189.00 in our bank account. Two checks were received tonight. The form on the back of our newsletter could be considered an invoice.

BC: Our traditional budget meeting is in March. April is usually our post-legislative meeting.

SB: February is too early for a budget meeting; it is before public hearings on the budget, so this is perfect.

BC: I am still seeking potential speakers for February and May. I am thinking of inviting county staff to deliver a primer on county government and how it's organized, as well as inviting speakers from the FFC Committee on Aging, and the Laurel Hill Task Force.

AW: This Thursday Superintendent Daniel Domenech will speak to the Fairfax Federation of Citizens Associations at the Packard Center.

**The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Bob Cosgriff at 9:14 P.M.**

## SUMMARY

**The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Cosgriff at 7:30 P.M.**

Sharon Bulova (SB): I've circulated some handouts here in the room. The first item is something that is also in the Braddock District Council newsletter. It concerns the Community Dialog on Gang Activity & Revitalization in the Heritage / Annandale area of Braddock District.

SB: The next item concerns the Burke Centre library. The property had been purchased about 5 years ago. This November there will be a bond referendum for library construction, which will include this library. For those interested in what the library will look like and operate like, this is the first artist's rendering, for public comment. The meeting will be on 24 February. Details are in the newsletter.

SB: The next topic is the Best of Braddock (BOB) award. Recognize a person or organize a person who has had a positive impact on the Braddock District. The award is presented at the June picnic.

☑ SB: We had something come before the BOS yesterday showing where many new bus shelters are coming. The Braddock district had 4, two of which were deleted for various reasons. My request to you is to look around your neighborhood bus stops and communicate to me where bus shelters may be a good idea. I caveat that utility problems may preclude a certain location that would otherwise appear ideal. Please include this in your community newsletter.

SB: Remember that the budget is published on 23 February. Tradition is to discuss the county executive's budget submission at the BDC March Meeting, which is March 9 this year.

SB: Gerry Connolly's transportation initiative is to increase bond sales to add to the transportation bond we already had scheduled this September. It is a well rounded package. It includes construction money for the Burke Centre Virginia Railway Express (VRE) parking facility, intersection improvements at Ravensworth Road, Braddock Road, and Route 123, etc. \$50M bond capacity would be added, and it would include some federal money.

Janyce Hedetniemi (JH): The transportation story was in today's newspaper.

Man: Is this similar to the pushing back of library funding to finance transportation, as done by Tom Davis about 9 years ago?

SB: No.

Art Wells (AW): I read you in the newspaper today that you were a little perturbed by the Woodson High School funding issue.

SB: Yes. We need to keep that capital project moving forward.

SB: On February 18 at Little River Glen there will be a meeting to discuss a senior care center.

**Supervisor Bulova had to depart to speak at George Mason University. Bob Cosgriff then introduced the guest speaker, Ms. Grace Starbird, from the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging (AAA).**

Grace Starbird (GS): We are known as the Triple-A. I will talk about our services tonight, and the requirements for those services, as well as other community resources. I also have information for community organizations that would like to invite us to speak at their meetings.

GS: AAA serves residents age 60 and older and their care givers. We are part of Family Services. We serve Fairfax County (FFC), Fairfax City, and Falls Church.

GS: I have information here for frequently called numbers (purple handout), finding your way through the Home Care maze, caregiver packet, funds meals, and transportation.

**Grace Starbird then gave her slide show. The below notes refer to her separately provided slides.**

GS: Information and assistance: we respond to calls, emails, and walk-ins. County and community services.

GS: Insurance counseling: The Virginia Insurance and Counseling and Assistance Program (VICAP), help with Medicare, Medigap insurance, Long-term care insurance, Medicaid, prescription assistance, other medical bills. One fully funded person with many volunteers.

GS: Workshops during the year.

GS: Home Delivered Meals Program (Meals on Wheels): Hot lunch and bag food, Cost of meals on sliding scale. Liquid nutrient (Ensure) available on prescription basis.

GS: 26,000 people receive the Golden Gazette (free) in Fairfax County. Month articles on community services, volunteer activities. Large print version started last year with a circulation of 400. We are starting a cassette tape version.

GS: Volunteer Placement: putting volunteers into programs serving seniors, e.g., Pets on Wheels, Home Delivered Meals, In-Home Services to Seniors.

GS: Visiting and Telephone Programs: Friendship seniors, socially isolated seniors. Companionship, emotional support, and links to services.



GS: Long-term care Ombudsman: teaches advocacy skills to family members and residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Intervenes on behalf of nursing home residents. Provides information on complaints about nursing home facilities. Regional program, housed in FFC.

GS: Employment training prepares low-income older adults (55+) with special challenges, e.g., have not been in the work force for a long time. Number of participant slots limited by funding. Number of slots increased this past summer because federal funding increased.

GS: Volunteer In-Home Services.

GS: Assisted Transportation: when a volunteer driver cannot be found for a client who needs someone to accompany them on an errand. Gap filler. For relief of caregivers.

GS: ElderLink Care Management: provides consultation, assessment, arrangement of services and care management of seniors with multiple needs. Work in conjunction with County programs. Services available on sliding scales. Partnership with Inova Health Systems.

GS: Other Community Programs: adult and community education through FCPS, elder hostel for 55+, etc.

GS: Fun Programs: FFC Senior Centers, Senior Olympics, etc.

GS: Health related: American Red Cross, etc.

GS: Housing services: independent senior housing, public and private.

GS: Transportation Services: Seniors on the Go (cab discounts), FASTRAN for doctor appointments mid-day. MetroAccess, senior discounts on public transportation. Rides provided by volunteers.

GS: Financial Services: energy, etc.

GS: Care Management and Social Services: Care Network for Seniors.

GS: Protection: Adult Protective Services.

GS: Looking for services for senior out of the area? Call ElderCare Locator (800.677.1116) with the zip code of the senior.

GS:

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/service/aaa/homepage.html](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/service/aaa/homepage.html) or [fairfax\\_aaa@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:fairfax_aaa@fairfaxcounty.gov)

AW: How extensive is the demand for your services?

GS: We use the federal, state, and county funds wisely. 1 of 12 FFC residents (80,000) are elderly, and is the fastest growing population segment, three times faster growth than the next closest segment. Biggest challenge is to serve non-native English

speakers. Affordable and assisted living are the biggest areas of need. There are a lot of services available, although there are gaps.

Woman: Can you tell me about the taxi program.

GS: \$50K/year couples and \$40K/singles for discount taxi vouchers. FASTRAN is limited to mid-day doctor visits and emergency needs.

Man: What are you doing to identify customer needs?

GS: We are working with systems – Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) – to gather information on where various customer groups are located.

Man: Is there a movement of seniors?

GS: Many seniors are selling their homes to younger families and moving to other areas. That is the type of stuff we are wrestling with now.

Man: I was on a retreat this past weekend and a fellow participant was someone who ran for elected office last year. He said the question he was most asked by seniors was whether DMV would remove driving privileges for seniors.

GS: There is MetroAccess for those with disabilities. Once certified by a doctor, we provide transportation curb to curb. It falls under the Americans with Disabilities Act. It is throughout region, and run by Metro.

Man: Ice-T federal legislation aimed at facilitating movement of people in communities. Includes buying easements and building trails.

Man: Maintaining a car is expensive. If one were to always take a taxi instead, without the subsidy, one would still save 1/2 to 1/3 of the cost of maintaining a car.

GS: We haven't really built our communities to facilitate walking. People are trying to do more pedestrian planning. I also use the Giant Peapod service from time to time.

GS: We put together a pamphlet on what communities should know regarding senior services. All the information being shared tonight is on our web page. We are an Older Americans Act Agency, so many of our services are free.

Man: What is the cutoff for Medicaid eligibility?

GS: I don't know.

**Bob Cosgriff then thanked Grace Starbird for her briefing. Bob then asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. There was a motion and it was seconded. The minutes were then approved by voice vote.**

Ivan Dietrich (ID): Treasurer's Report: \$1309.74

BC: We usually receive Citizen of the Year inputs by the 29<sup>th</sup> of March. It may be a person who has

done a one-time good thing or over many years. It's slightly different than the Best of Braddock (BOB) award, although it is also awarded at the June picnic.

☑ Jeff Nolan will make the Citizen of the Year nomination form available via the BDC web site.

BC: Our meeting on March 9 is our traditional budget briefing as mentioned by Supervisor Bulova. The April meeting is our traditional state legislature meeting. Our May meeting will include a briefing from the Potomac River Greenways Coalition. Pohick and Accotink Watersheds are two of the largest watersheds in our county. June 8 is our annual picnic.

Woman: May anyone attend next month's meeting on the budget?

BC: Yes.

BC: The FFC Solid Waste Management Plan is now on the county web site and comment is solicited.

BC: The Laurel Hill Task Force is really busy this month and next month, bringing the Silverbrook Road adaptive reuse recommendations to conclusion by the end of April.

BC: The President of the Middleridge Citizens Association sent me a letter regarding the high and inconsistent cost of trash pickup. My personal experience is that they over billed me, and since I had negotiated the rate for my community, I realized this and had them correct my bill. I ask for your input, but I do not believe this is a Braddock District issue.

Woman: We should make people aware of their choices. I am happiest with my 3<sup>rd</sup> garbage collecting company – Waste Management.

Jeff Nolan (JN): We had a representative from FFC waste management at a recent BDC meeting.

Middleridge is welcome to attend our BDC meetings and read our minutes.

Man: The Middleridge Civic Association should get with contiguous civic associations and ask them to negotiate with Middleridge for trash pickup.

☑ BC: I will confirm with Supervisor Bulova that it is not appropriate for the BDC to negotiate rates.

AW: One thing overlooked is the extraordinary loads they had to pick up after Hurricane Isabel at no extra charge.

BC: The Kings Park West Homeowners Association has been inactive, but the 577 homeowners there are reinvigorating it. They request our assistance to tap the experience of other associations regarding dues, insurance, etc., so that they may pass info to the

group that is standing up the new association. They have 44 acres of common ground.

Woman: A homeowners association is different from a civic association.

BC: In the past John Fee had personally responded to requests from homeowner associations and walked them through by-laws.

AW: Clay Wagner, guru of the FFC Citizens Associations manual, will be at the next Fairfax Federation of Citizens Associations meeting on February 19. The FFC slot for homeowners associations was cut in the early 1990's.

Man: Clay has been to several of our meetings. Florence Naeve is a real plus as well. Our Park Authority also briefed us on accepting land.

Woman: Where is the land?

Man from Kings Park West (KPW): The land is off Braddock Road, on Tapestry Drive. The land backs up to properties on the left-hand side (18 acres), and to Commonwealth and Collingham streets (15-18 acres). After Hurricane Isabel, fallen trees (in the yards of residents) drew interest. People have liability.

BC: Many people bought before required BPOA disclosures, so they didn't know of the defunct homeowners association.

Man: On the subject of trees, we probably haven't had any requests from John Fee yet for dead tree replacement. Usually the BDC spends \$300-400 per year to rejuvenate Braddock Road, from Wakefield Park to Shirley Gate Road. Usually the BDC asks neighboring associations for the money. Of the new trees planted each year, usually 1/3 of them die.

IV: Is the homeowners association incorporated?

KPW: When the Kings Park West developer set up the homeowners association, it was incorporated. It was allowed to lapse, so now the land is owned in common. There are some covenant restrictions on the books. We need to change fees, bylaws, restrictions.

Woman: The national Community Associations Institute is in Alexandria. You should contact them.

Man: I'm working on a 40 year retrospective of the area inside and around Kings Park, including cultural issues, trends, and gang activity. Mike Malak and Ken Mulberg are working with me. We should have something put together by the March meeting. One new development is a proposed cell phone tower in Kings Park to gain rent on a property with a pool that is diminishing in value. We are including a 5 year look at concerns, e.g., buildings across from the interstate. If know of

concerns, please help us put them into our 5 year plan.

Question: Why is the pool diminishing in value?

KPW: The pool has seen a change of membership, liability insurance went up, and kids are doing something else vice going to the pool in the summer. One pool was so desperate that they even mortgaged their property.

BC: This has been a good exchange. It is one reason why we are here. Please help out KPW.

**The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Bob Cosgriff at 9:08 P.M.**

The Braddock District Council of Community Associations (BDC) provides a forum for representatives of residential community associations to express their views on major issues of common concern. The BDC is a section 501(c)(4) non-profit corporation, with geographic boundaries coterminous with the Braddock magisterial district. Meetings of the BDC are open to representatives of all homeowner, tenant and civic associations in the Braddock District. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, except July and August. The mailing address is:

c/o Braddock Supervisor's Office  
9002 Burke Lake Road  
Burke, VA 22015-1608

The Office telephone is 703-425-9300.

Chairman – Bob Cosgriff (Hickory Farms)  
703-764-0720

Vice chair – Janyce Hedetniemi (Oak Hill)  
703-978-8095

Treasurer – Ivan Dietrich (Woods of Ilda)  
703-323-1881

Recording Secretary – Jeff Nolan (Bonnie Brae) 703-426-4761

Corresponding Secretary – Brenda Cammauf  
(Heritage Court)

Internet address:

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